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(54) Copolymer for use in preparing prepgs, printed circuit wiring boards prepared from such
prepgs and processes for preparing such printed circuit wiring boards.

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(57) Copolymers for use in preparing prepgs, which in turn are used to prepare printed circuit wiring boards are provided, as well as processes for producing the prepgs and wiring boards. The copolymers comprise repeating units derived from cycloolefin monomers, e.g., norbornene-type monomers, e.g., dicyclopentadiene-type monomers. Some of the monomers are silane-substituted while others are non silane-substituted. The silane-substituted monomers provide copolymers which exhibit improved properties when employed as the copolymers in prepgs for printed circuit wiring boards. For example, improved adhesion is achieved between the noncellulosic substrate and the polymers of components used in the wiring boards. These properties include, but are not limited to improved dielectric properties, improved adhesion to glass cloth substrates, etc.

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COPOLYMER FOR USE IN PREPARING PREPREGS, PRINTED CIRCUIT WIRING BOARDS PREPARED FROM SUCH PREPREGS AND PROCESSES FOR PREPARING SUCH PRINTED CIRCUIT WIRING BOARDS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is related to (U.S. Serial No. 309,857, filed February 14, 1989) and (U.S. Serial No. 288,999, filed December 23, 1988), which are assigned to the same assignees as the present invention. The entirety of these disclosures are incorporated by reference herein.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 This invention relates to printed circuit wiring boards, prepgs from which they are prepared and to copolymers from which the prepgs are prepared. The copolymers comprise repeating units of polynorbornene structures. Some of the structures have been substituted with a silane substituent and some have not been substituted. The silane substitution provides increased adhesion to various substrates, for example, 15 glass cloth and copper.

Printed circuit wiring boards generally comprise at least one layer of glass cloth which has been impregnated with a polymer or copolymer. These wiring boards are fabricated from prepgs. Prepgs are generally formed of glass cloth which has been impregnated with a polymer or copolymer and then partially cured so that further curing can take place. The prepgs are then generally arranged in a stacking 20 sequence and subjected to heat and pressure so as to form a cured laminate.

The laminates generally comprise at least one layer of prepg and at least one layer of a conductive film, such as copper, which when imaged and etched serve to provide a printed circuit wiring board substrate.

Typical printed circuit wiring boards are single layer or multilayer in configuration. The typical single 25 layer printed circuit wiring board comprises a central prepg/substrate layer to which have been laminated two layers of conductive film (optionally only a single layer of conductive film may be laminated to the substrate layer). The conductive film is then imaged and etched to form the printed circuit mentioned above. If a multilayer printed circuit wiring board is desired, this procedure can be repeated. Thus, typically, 30 a structure similar to a single layer printed circuit wiring board is fabricated comprising a prepg substrate core and imaged and etched conductive film patterns on each major surface of the substrate. Subsequently, additional layers of prepg are configured in a stacking sequence on each major surface together with one or two layers of conductive film on the exterior major surfaces of the additional prepg layers. The sequence is then subjected to heat and pressure in order to form a multilayer laminate comprising layers of conductive film, prepg, conductive film, prepg, etc..

Cellulosic and fiberglass cloths have long been used to reinforce polymeric substrates such as the 35 prepgs discussed above. It is known that silane coupling agents can be applied directly to glass filaments to improve the properties, such as the strength of laminates such as those discussed above, often by as much as 300% for compression molded test samples. It is believed that silane coupling agents at the interface allow many particulate materials to act as reinforcing fillers in such laminates to increase various 40 properties, such as strength, hardness, modulus, heat distortion and impact strength. Fiberglass cloth is usually treated with a solution of a coupling agent. This coupling agent can be a silane coupling agent and can be applied directly to the glass cloth.

The precise nature of the mechanism in which silane increases adhesion is not entirely understood. Silane coupling agents modify the interface between organic resin surfaces and non-resins to improve 45 adhesion. The physical properties are improved as a result. It is possible that the silane coupling agents form bonds with the non-resin surfaces and resin surfaces through the silane functional group. Hydrolyzed silanes condense to oligomeric siloxanols and eventually to rigid cross-linked structures. Contact with a polymer matrix should take place while the siloxanols still have some solubility. The bonding to a polymer matrix may take various different forms. Bonding may be covalent where the siloxanol is compatible with 50 the liquid matrix resin. The solutions might also form an interpenetrating polymer network as the siloxanols and the resins separately cure with only limited copolymerization.

It is well known that not all silanes or mixtures of silanes will bond all metals to all substrates. In McGee, U.S. 4,315,970, it is stated that:
[i]t is generally accepted that specific silanes can be used for adhesion of specific materials to specific

substrates. That is, the silane must be matched to the application and it cannot be assumed that all silanes will work in all applications.

This statement illustrates the unpredictability of the suitability of silane coupling agents in improving adhesion of a metal to a substrate. Thus, this suitability must be determined by experimentation.

5 While suitable coupling agents are commercially available for bonding of many common plastics with a variety of metals, the application of silane coupling agents for bonding of polynorbornenes to metals has only recently been developed (see U.S. Serial No. 228,034, filed August 4, 1988 and commonly assigned to the same assignee as the present invention). Norbornene-type monomers are polymerized by either a ring-opening mechanism or by an addition reaction wherein the cyclic ring structure remains intact. Ring-opening polymerization generally yields unsaturated linear polymers while addition polymerization yields 10 polycycloaliphatics. It is desirable to produce polymers having high molecular weight repeating units incorporated therein to provide good temperature resistance, i.e., high heat distortion temperatures and high glass transition temperatures.

15 CA98:162025n and 98:162026p disclose laminates for use in preparing printed circuit boards. The laminates comprise an assembly of preprints of paper-reinforced phenolic resin and copper foil. Polyethylene may be employed as an intermediate layer between the copper foil and the preprints. The polyethylene layer is silane-modified in the presence of a radical-generating agent and is employed as an adhesive layer.

20 CA107:8574p discloses laminates of glass fibers impregnated with silicon-modified epoxy resins which also contain polyethylene. A six-layered wiring board is prepared from 15 sheets of the prepreg and 6 sheets of copper foil. CA107:8575q discloses similar laminates wherein epoxy resins, guanidine derivatives, fluoro-plastics or polyolefins are employed as the resin.

25 "Some Approaches to Low-dielectric Constant Matrix Resins for Printed Circuit Boards", Butler, et al., 15th National SAMPE Technical Conference, 1983, discloses general design considerations in the preparation of printed circuit boards. It discloses that the thermal cyclization of materials to form multicyclic structures has been employed in the preparation of printed circuit boards. It discloses that "conventional silane reactions" may be employed to overcome the shortcomings of silicon and that siloxane is a "desirable group[s] for polymer segment structures". It also discloses that coupling agents to improve adhesion can be employed.

30 Although printed circuit wiring boards employing various materials, e.g., those discussed above, are available, serious deficiencies in properties still exist, such as good adhesion, low dielectric constant, good punchability, good molten solder resistance characteristics and improved peel strength. Prior art printed circuit wiring board substrates fall short of optimizing these parameters and providing a spectrum of properties which is optimal. Thus, there has been a continuing need for improvement.

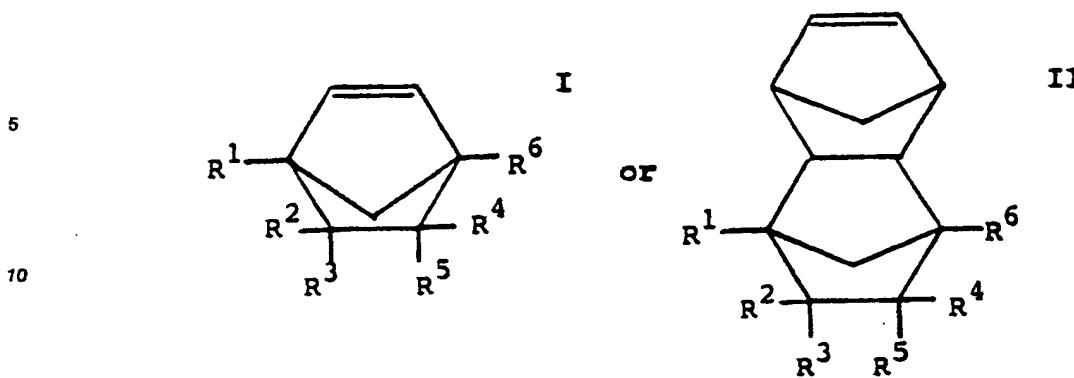
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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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wherein

R¹ and R⁶ is each independently selected from H, halogen, CH₃, or C₂-C₁₀ alkyl;
R³ and R⁵ is each independently selected from H, halogen, CH₃, C₂-C₁₀ alkyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkene, C₆-C₁₂ cycloalkyl, C₆-C₁₂ cycloalkene, C₆-C₁₂ aryl, or C₆-C₁₂ aryl substituted by C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, or a silane group, or

20 R³ and R⁵ together form a saturated or unsaturated cyclic or multicyclic alkylene group of from 2-10 carbon atoms; and

25 R² and R⁴ is each independently selected from H or a silane group.

It will be understood that at least one of R² and R⁴ is substituted by a silane group when R³ and R⁵ do not together form a cyclic alkylene group. When R³ and R⁵ form a cyclic alkylene group, this group is preferably silane substituted.

It will also be understood that the cyclic or multicyclic alkylene group of R³-R⁵ is meant to include compounds wherein R³-R⁵ form cyclohexyl-type structures fused to the ring of the structure set forth in the formula. Thus, R³ and R⁵ can form a norbornyl-type structure.

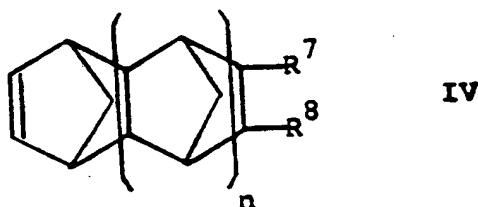
30 R² through R⁵ can also be a polar substituent such as a nitrile-, ester-, acrylate-, halogen- or sulfur-containing group.

In another, preferred aspect of this invention, these objects are obtained by providing a printed circuit wiring board comprising a conductive film laminated to a prepreg layer comprising a glass cloth impregnated with a polycyclic copolymer comprising silane-substituted repeating units derived from monomers of the formulas

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wherein n=1-4 and R⁷ and R⁸ are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, C₁-C₁₂ alkyl groups, C₂-C₁₂ alkylene groups, C₆-C₁₂ cycloalkyl groups, C₆-C₁₂ cycloalkylene groups and C₆-C₁₂ aryl groups, C₂-C₁₂ alkylene groups, C₆-C₁₂ cycloalkyl groups, C₆-C₁₂ cycloalkylene groups and C₆-C₁₂ aryl groups, the two ring carbon atoms connected thereto, said ring carbon atoms forming part of and contributing to the 55 4 to 12 carbon atoms in the cyclic group. At least one of R⁷ and R⁸ is substituted by a silane group, when R⁷ and R⁸ do not together form a cyclic group or groups. When R⁷ and R⁸ do together form a cyclic group or groups, the R⁷-R⁸ cyclic structure is silane substituted.

The preprints produced from the copolymers of this invention have low dielectric constants, e.g., from

3.5 - 2.6, preferably from 3.3 - 2.6. In highly preferred embodiments, dielectric constants of 3.0 or lower are obtained. The prepgs of this invention also have low dissipation factors, for example, the prepgs of this invention have dissipation factors of from 0.01 - 0.001, preferably from 0.007 - 0.001. In highly preferred embodiments of this invention, the prepgs of this invention have a dissipation factor of 0.003 or lower.

5 The invention also provides related laminates, as well as copolymers derived from the above-identified monomers.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

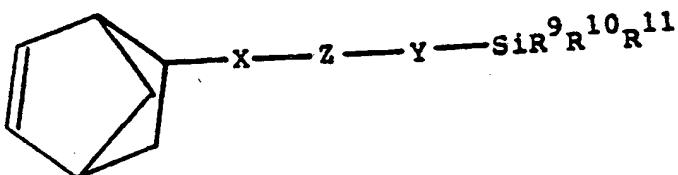
10 This invention provides laminates, particularly printed circuit wiring boards, having a superior spectrum of properties. In particular, the printed circuit wiring boards of this invention have a superior spectrum of dielectric and structural properties, including lower dielectric constants and increased adhesion. They are prepared by laminating a substrate layer, such as one or more prepgs of fiberglass-reinforced silane-substituted polynorbornene copolymer to a conductive foil, for example, a copper foil, utilizing a silane coupling agent and optionally an intermediate layer of polyethylene.

15 In preferred embodiments of this invention, the prepgs are prepared from glass fibers which are impregnated with a polynorbornene by the use of a polynorbornene dipping solution. This solution comprises solubilized polynorbornene polymers. The polymers are obtained from metathesis ring-opening polymerization of cycloolefin monomers having at least one norbornene functional group.

20 The norbornene monomers (cycloolefin monomers) are characterized by the presence of at least one norbornene moiety, for example, a moiety having a structure of Formula I or II. At least some of the monomer moieties contain a silane substituent, e.g., a substituent of the formula $-SiR^9R^{10}R^{11}$, wherein each of R^9 , R^{10} , R^{11} is selected independently from the group which includes H; halogen; C₁-C₁₂ alkyl; C₆-C₁₂ aryl; C₆-C₁₂ aryl substituted by C₁-C₁₂ alkyl; C₁-C₁₂ alkoxy; halogen; or hydroxyl. The alkyl and alkoxy substituents preferably contain 1-4 carbon atoms, most preferably 1-2.

25 Small amounts of silane-substituted norbornenes containing hetero atoms, (e.g. -O-, -C-, -NH-) can also be included. When employed these compounds comprise 1 -10% of the composition based on the total weight of monomeric units present in the polymeric composition, preferably from 1 - 5%.

30 These compounds include monomers of the formula



40 wherein X is selected from -C-, -C₆H₄-CH₂- or alkylene of from 1-4 carbon atoms, preferably from 1-2 carbon atoms, and most preferably -CH₂-;

45 Z is selected from -O-, -NH-, -O-CH₂CH₂-O-, or -NH-CH₂-CH₂-NH-;

Y is selected from alkylene of from 1-4 carbon atoms, preferably from 1-3 carbon atoms, and most preferably 3 carbon atoms; and R⁹, R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are each independently selected from hydrogen; C₁-C₁₂ alkyl, preferably C₁-C₄ alkyl, most preferably C₁-C₂ alkyl; C₆-C₁₂ aryl; C₆-C₁₂ aryl substituted by C₁-C₁₂ alkyl; C₁-C₄ alkoxy; and most preferably C₁-C₂ alkoxy; halogen; or hydroxyl.

50 The cycloolefin copolymers comprise repeating units derived from silane-substituted and non silane-substituted cycloolefin monomers. Suitable silane-substituted and non silane-substituted cycloolefin monomers (for clarity the following nomenclature does not name the silane substituent, although, when silane substituted, these monomers can be the silane-substituted monomers employed in the invention) include substituted and unsubstituted norbornenes, dicyclopentadienes, dihydrodicyclopentadienes, trimers of cyclopentadiene, tetracyclo-dodecenes, hexacycloheptadecenes, ethylenyl norbornenes and vinylnorbornenes. Substituents on the cycloolefin monomers include hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, and aryl groups of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and saturated and unsaturated cyclic groups of 3 to 12 carbon atoms which can be formed with one or more, preferably two, ring carbon atoms. In a preferred embodiment, the substituents

(exclusive of the silane substituents) are selected from hydrogen and alkyl groups of 1 to 2 carbon atoms. Generally speaking, the substituents on the cycloolefin monomers can be any which do not poison or deactivate the polymerization catalyst. Examples of the preferred monomers referred to herein include dicyclopentadiene,

- 5 2-norbornene,
and other norbornene monomers such as
5-methyl-2-norbornene,
5,6-dimethyl-2-norbornene,
5-ethyl-2-norbornene,
10 5-ethylidene-2-norbornene (or 5-ethylidene-norbornene),
5-butyl-2-norbornene,
5-hexyl-2-norbornene,
5-octyl-2-norbornene,
5-phenyl-2-norbornene,
15 5-dodecyl-2-norbornene,
5-isobutyl-2-norbornene,
5-octadecyl-2-norbornene,
5-isopropyl-2-norbornene,
5-phenyl-2-norbornene,
20 5-p-tolyl-2-norbornene,
5- α -naphthyl-2-norbornene,
5-cyclohexyl-2-norbornene,
5-isopropenyl-norbornene,
5-vinyl-norbornene,
25 5,5-dimethyl-2-norbornene,
tricyclopentadiene (or cyclopentadiene trimer),
tetracyclopentadiene (or cyclopentadiene tetramer),
dihydrodicyclopentadiene (or cyclopentene-cyclopentadiene co-dimer),
methyl-cyclopentadiene dimer,
30 ethyl-cyclopentadiene dimer,
tetracyclododecene,
9-methyl-tetracyclo[6.2.1.1^{3,6},0^{2,7}]dodecene-4 (or methyl-tetracyclododecene),
9-ethyl-tetracyclo[6.2.1.1^{3,6},0^{2,7}]dodecene-4 (or ethyl-tetracyclododecene),
9-propyl-tetracyclo[6.2.1.1^{3,6},0^{2,7}]dodecene-4,
35 9-hexyl-tetracyclo[6.2.1.1^{3,6},0^{2,7}]dodecene-4,
9-decyl-tetracyclo[6.2.1.1^{3,6},0^{2,7}]dodecene-4,
9,10-dimethyl-tetracyclo[6.2.1.1^{3,6},0^{2,7}]dodecene-4,
9-methyl,10-ethyl-tetracyclo[6.2.1.1^{3,6},0^{2,7}]dodecene-4,
9-cyclohexyl-tetracyclo[6.2.1.1^{3,6},0^{2,7}]dodecene-4,
40 9-chloro-tetracyclo[6.2.1.1^{3,6},0^{2,7}]dodecene-4,
9-bromo-tetracyclo[6.2.1.1^{3,6},0^{2,7}]dodecene-4,
9-fluoro-tetracyclo[6.2.1.1^{3,6},0^{2,7}]dodecene-4,
9-isobutyl-tetracyclo[6.2.1.1^{3,6},0^{2,7}]dodecene-4, and
9,10-dichloro-tetracyclo[6.2.1.1^{3,6},0^{2,7}]dodecene-4.

45 This invention especially contemplates the use of one or more of these monomers so as to provide either homopolymers or copolymers upon polymerization.

Other monomers can form part of the polynorbornenes such as non-conjugated acyclic olefins, monocyclic olefins and diolefins. The non-conjugated acyclic olefins act as chain terminators in the ring opening polymerization. Terminal olefins are most preferred, e.g., alpha-olefins. Thus monomers like hexene-1 are preferred while 1-butene, 2-pentene, 4-methyl-2-pentene, and 5-ethyl-3-octene are suitable also. They are typically used at a molar ratio of 0.001:1 to 0.5:1 acyclic olefin to cycloolefin monomer. The polynorbornenes used in forming the printed wire boards of the present invention are obtained by solution polymerization. For solution polymerization, the catalyst preferably comprises molybdenum or tungsten salts and the co-catalyst preferably comprises dialkylaluminum halides, alkylaluminum dihalides, alkylalkoxy halides or a mixture of trialkylaluminum with an iodine source.

50 Examples of useful molybdenum and tungsten salts include the halides such as chlorides, bromides, iodides, and fluorides. Specific examples of such halides include molybdenum pentachloride, molybdenum hexachloride, molybdenum pentabromide, molybdenum hexabromide, molybdenum pentaiodide, molyb-

denum hexafluoride, tungsten hexachloride, tungsten hexafluoride and the like. Other representative salts include those of acetylacetones, sulfates, phosphates, nitrates, and the like. Mixtures of salts can also be used. For polymerization results, the more preferred salts are the molybdenum halides, especially molybdenum pentahalides such as MoCl_5 .

5 Specific-examples of co-catalysts for ring-opening solution polymerization include alkyl-aluminum halides such as ethylaluminum sesquichloride, diethylaluminum chloride, diethylaluminum iodide, ethylaluminum diiodide, propylaluminum diiodide and ethylpropylaluminum iodide and a mixture of triethylaluminum and elemental iodine.

For solution polymerization, the molybdenum or tungsten salt is generally employed at a level from 10 about 0.01 to about 50 millimoles per mole of total monomer, preferably from about 0.5 to about 10 millimoles per mole of total monomer and the organoaluminum compounds described above are generally used in a molar ratio of organoaluminum compound to molybdenum and/or tungsten salt(s) from about 10/1 to about 1/3, preferably from about 5/1 to about 3/1. Both catalyst and co-catalyst for solution polymerization are normally added at the time of polymerization.

15 Suitable solvents used for the solution polymerization and in forming the dipping solution include aliphatic and cycloaliphatic hydrocarbon solvents containing 4 to 10 carbon atoms such as cyclohexane, cyclooctane and the like; aromatic hydrocarbon solvents containing 6 to 14 carbon atoms which are liquid or easily liquified such as benzene, toluene, xylene and the like; and substituted hydrocarbons wherein the substituents are inert such as dichloromethane, chloroform, chlorobenzene, dichlorobenzene and the like.

20 Optionally present within the dipping solution are curing agents which initiate radical cross-linking such as the peroxides, di-t-butyl peroxide, or 2,5-dimethyl-2,5-di(t-butylperoxy)-hexyne-3. Antioxidants such as hindered phenol antioxidants (Ethyl 330) and polyunsaturated monomeric or oligomeric cross-linkers such as trimethylol-propane triacrylate are also optional. The dipping solution has a solids content of preferably about 10% to about 40%. Dipping solutions having concentrations both above and below this range can be used in forming the laminates of the invention.

25 The dipping solution is impregnated into a non-cellulosic cloth, such as fiberglass, to form a substrate layer, often referred to as a prepreg. The cloth may be woven or non-woven. Many glass cloth materials having a variety of surface characteristics are available commercially. In the present invention E-type fiberglass cloth, style 2116, having a surface finish type 642 or 627 (which refers to a silane treatment) made by Burlington Industries is preferred. The non-cellulosic cloth is impregnated by immersing it in the dipping solution of the polynorbornene diluted in an organic solvent. This can be accomplished at ambient temperatures or at the temperatures above or below ambient temperatures.

30 An amount of copolymer sufficient to provide a weight-to-weight ratio of copolymer to glass in the finished prepreg of from about 30:70 to about 80:20 on a weight-to-weight basis is suitably employed. Preferably amounts to provide from about 40:60 to about 70:30, and most preferably from about 50:50 to about 65:35 are employed.

35 The glass cloth may be pretreated with a silane solution. A preferred class of pretreating agents is the styryl-di-amino-alkoxy silanes.

40 The prepreg so produced is typically dried at temperatures between ambient temperature and about 150 °C. At final stages of drying the temperature is preferably maintained above the glass transition temperature (Tg) of the polymer to permit the solvent to diffuse out. If curing agents are present, the temperature is kept sufficiently low to prevent activation of radical cross-linking.

45 The laminates produced by the present invention incorporate a conductive foil, preferably a copper film with a copper surface layer, such as copper foil. This copper foil can be the surface layer of other metallic films. The copper surface layer is pretreated with a silane solution which increases the bond strength between the substrate and the copper surface layer. Prior to lamination the copper foil can be treated for example, for 1 minute by dipping in a 0.4% solution of 3-(N-styrylmethyl-2-amino-ethyl)-amino-propyltrimethoxysilane hydrochloride in methanol as an adhesion promoter. The treated foil can be subjected to a short bake for 5 minutes at 105 °C. Preferably, copper foil of the type manufactured for printed wiring boards with a matte side for lamination to a prepreg is pretreated with such a solution of silane coupling agent before being laminated to the prepreg. Such copper foils are typically about 35 microns thick and have a dendritic bronze matte surface.

50 It is also feasible to employ a composite conductive sheet in which one face of the sheet is copper and the other is an appropriate metal such as tin, silver, gold, solder, aluminum, platinum, titanium, zinc, chrome, or an alloy of one or more of these metals with each other or copper. Additionally, the conductive foil may be composed of entirely only one of the above metals. Particularly suitable metal foils or films are available from Gould, Inc..

55 Laminates, such as printed circuit wiring boards, can be prepared by laminating the pre-treated

conductive layer to the substrate layer (prepreg). The lamination steps can involve fully conventional conditions well-known to those of ordinary skill in the art. For example, one of ordinary skill in the art can easily determine optimum pressure and temperature conditions at which the lamination should be carried out, perhaps with a few routine optimization experiments. Lamination can suitably be accomplished in a heated press using pressures above about 700 psi, preferably 1,000-1,100 psi, and at temperatures between ambient temperature and 250 °C, but preferably between 170 °C and 190 °C. Preferably, the lamination temperature is above the glass transition temperature of the polymer and is sufficiently high to activate any curing agents which are employed, e.g., peroxide curing agents. At such temperatures, the curing agents, particularly peroxide curing agents will release an oxygen free-radical which causes cross-linking. Cross-linking provides strength and chemical resistance to the boards. Generally, a stack of prepgs can be pressed between a pair of pre-treated copper foils. The pre-treated bronze side of the copper foil is placed in contact with the prepreg.

Many of the silane-substituted monomers of this invention are readily commercially available. Moreover, the silane-substituted monomers of this invention may be easily prepared by introducing silicon atoms into the polynorbornenes. This is accomplished by reacting a diene monomer (cycloolefin monomer) with a dieneophile containing silicon. For example, a silane-substituted monomer can be prepared from cyclopentadiene and a dieneophile containing silicon. Similarly, a tetracyclododecene could be obtained. This procedure is easily accomplished, and involves fully conventional conditions and materials (e.g., conventional catalysts, etc.). The silane compounds of formula V are prepared in the same way. Those of ordinary skill in the art will readily be able to select the optimum starting materials and reaction conditions.

Suitable silicon-containing dieneophiles are fully conventional, readily available and can be easily selected by those of ordinary skill in the art. Examples of suitable dieneophiles include vinyltriethoxysilane, vinyltrichlorosilane and vinyl dichloromethylsilane. However, many others exist and are readily available.

The silane-substituted monomers are then copolymerized with non silane-substituted monomers to produce a silane-substituted copolymer comprising polycycloolefins. Examples of suitable and preferred silane-substituted monomers include norbornenylsilane, norbornenyl methyl dichlorosilane, norbornenyl-triethoxysilane (or 5-(bicycloheptene)-2-triethoxysilane), etc. In an exemplary embodiment, 5-(bicycloheptene)-2-triethoxysilane is copolymerized with 2-methyl-5-norbornene to produce a cycloolefin containing functional silane groups. The copolymerization advantageously takes place under the conditions discussed above.

A ratio of silane-substituted monomer to non silane-substituted monomer of from about 95:5 to about 1:99 is suitably employed on a weight-to-weight basis. Preferably, a ratio of from about 80:50 to about 3:97 is employed and most preferably a ratio of from about 20:80 to about 5:95.

Prepregs produced from such copolymers exhibit improved polymer-glass adhesion, improved plasma etch resistance, lower dielectric constants and lower dissipation factors.

The silane-substituted copolymers of this invention are employed to produce prepgs in the same way that non-silane-substituted polycycloolefins have been employed to produce printed circuit wiring boards. The procedure for producing such wiring boards and related laminates is set forth below:

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Step 1

Preparation of 70/30 (wt/wt) Methyltetracyclododecene (mtd) 5-triethoxysilyl-2-norbornene (SiNB) Copolymer

An unsaturated polynorbornene polymer was obtained in the following manner. Into a septum-capped vessel containing 150 g. of molecular sieves were added 400 g. of dry toluene, 80.3 g. of methyl tetracyclododecene, 35 g. triethoxysilyl norbornene and 26.5 g. hexene-1. The contents were mixed and this mixture was allowed to stand 30 minutes, then transferred to a second vessel by passing it through a 1 micron filter under nitrogen pressure. The vessel was slightly pressurized with nitrogen. To the mixture 2.77 cc of a 25% solution of ethyl-sesquichloride (EASC cocatalyst) in dry toluene were introduced by syringe. To this mixture, 9.77 cc of a solution of 2 g. of molybdenum pentachloride catalyst in 39 g. of dry ethylacetate and 84 g. of dry toluene, were also introduced by syringe. Within one minute, an exothermic reaction of the mixture resulted and the mixture became a viscous liquid. After 15 minutes, 60 cc of a 88/12 (wt/wt) mixture of 2-propanol and water was added to the vessel and the contents shaken to inactivate the catalyst. The top layer, containing mostly solvents, residual monomers and low molecular weight polymers, was poured off. The semisolid bottom layer was redissolved in 100 cc of toluene, washed with water and dried by azeotropic distillation of part of the solvent.

Polymerization was found to be 93% conversion of monomer as calculated by measuring the percent.

weight solids of the resulting polymer solution. The glass transition temperature (T_g) was found to be 138 °C in the second heat, as calculated from a Differential Scanning Calorimetry curve of a sample of the polymer that was diluted in toluene, precipitated into methanol with stirring, filtered and dried.

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Step 2Preparation of Prepreg

10 The prepreg formulation used consisted of a 25% solution of a 70/30 (wt/wt) copolymer of methyl-tetracyclodocene (MTD) and 5-triethoxysilyl-2-norbornene (SiNB) also containing 3.5 p.h.r. (parts per hundred resin) of Lupersol 130, peroxide from Penwalt Co. Lucidol Division, and 1 p.h.r. of Irganox 1010 antioxidant from Ciba-Geigy Co. The polymer had a dilute solution viscosity (DSV) in toluene of 0.5 and it was obtained by ring opening polymerization of above monomers in toluene, in the presence of hexene-1
15 as a molecular weight modifier, using molybdenum pentachloride and ethyl-aluminum sesquichloride as the catalyst system.

16 The above formulation was impregnated, by dipping, onto a glass cloth style 2116, having a finish 642 from Burlington Industries. After air drying to a tack-free condition, the residual solvent was eliminated in a mechanical convection oven for 15 minutes at 50 °C, 15 at 75 °C, 20 at 100 °C and 10 at 130 °C. The 20 residual amount of volatiles was measured to be below 2.5% at 200 °C by Thermogravimetric Analysis.

Step 3Lamination of Copper Foil To The Prepreg

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Two layers of above prepgs were laminated in-between electrodeposited copper foil, containing a proprietary bronze treatment on the matte side (TC treatment from Gould Inc., Foil Division). The lamination and cure was performed in a press at from 40 to 190 °C for 25 minutes and, isothermally at 190 °C for 3 hrs., using a pressure of 700 psi.

30 The copper on both sides of the laminate was imaged and etched using a 1 molar solution of ammonium persulfate. The etched board was at this point a cured substituted polynorbornene C-stage board.

35 The following examples illustrate how various copolymers of this invention perform when employed in printed circuit wiring boards of this invention. In these examples and throughout the specification, all parts and percentages are by weight and all temperatures are in degrees Celsius, unless expressly stated otherwise.

Example 1

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Printed circuit wiring boards were prepared from prepgs of glass mat impregnated with various copolymers. The polymers were prepared from monomers according to the following table using molybdenum pentachloride in toluene with added ethyl acetate as catalyst and ethyl aluminum sesquichloride in toluene as cocatalyst. Hexene-1 was used as a chain transfer agent to control molecular weight. The 45 polymer was formulated in a formulation containing 1% Lupersol 130 and impregnated on a glass cloth having a typical amino silane treatment used for epoxy resin formulations. After cure of the prepgs in a press at 270 °C the adhesion of the polymer to glass was determined by scanning electron microscopy of an interface obtained by fracture at liquid nitrogen temperature. The polymers containing the silicon 50 compound showed good adhesion to glass fiber bundles, while a control prepg made of a polymer of MTD/MNB 90-10 showed poor adhesion at the glass polymer interface. The dielectric constant of the copolymers was then measured at ambient conditions using a GenRad 1687B 1-Megahertz LC Digibridge at a frequency of 1-MHz. The results are set forth below.

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#	Polymer Composition (Parts)	Dielectric Constant
1	70/30 MTD/SiNB-glass	3.2
2	70/10/20 MTD/MNB/SiNB-glass	3.3
3	70/20/10 MTD/MNB/SiNB-glass	3.1
4	70/25/5 MTD/MNB/SiNB-glass	3.2
5	70/29/1 MTD/MNB/SiNB-glass	3.0
Control (FR-4)	Epoxy-Glass	4.1-3.5

MTD = methyl tetracyclododecene
MNB = methylnorbornene
SiNB = 5-(bicycloheptene-2-yl)-triethoxy-silane

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While the invention has been disclosed in this specification by reference to the details of preferred embodiments of the invention, it is to be understood that the disclosure is intended in an illustrative, rather than in a limiting sense, as it is contemplated that modifications will readily occur to those skilled in the art, within the spirit of the invention and the scope of the appended claims.

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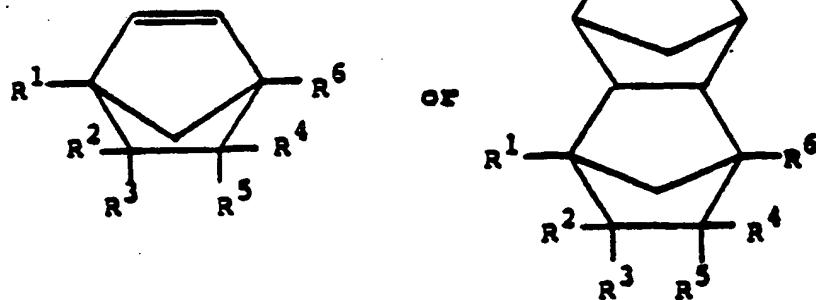
Claims

25 1. A printed circuit wiring board comprising a conductive film laminated to a prepreg layer comprising glass cloth impregnated with a polycycloolefin copolymer comprising silane-substituted repeating units derived by ring-opening polymerization from monomers of the formula

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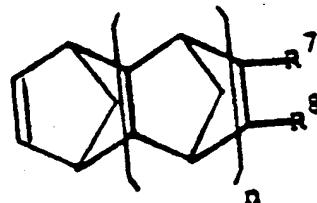
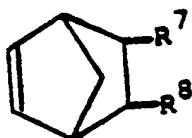


wherein

45 R¹ and R⁶ are each independently selected from H, halogen, CH₃, C₂-C₁₀ alkyl; R³ and R⁵ are each independently selected from H, halogen CH₃, C₂-C₁₀ alkyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkene, C₆-C₁₂ cycloalkyl, C₆-C₁₂ cycloalkene, C₆-C₁₂ aryl, or C₆-C₁₂ aryl substituted by C₁-C₁₀ alkyl or a silane group, or R³ and R⁵ together form a saturated or unsaturated cyclic alkylene group of from 2-10 carbon atoms, with the proviso that when R³ and R⁵ together form a saturated or unsaturated alkylene group, said saturated or unsaturated alkylene group is further substituted by a silane group;

50 R² and R⁴ are each independently selected from H or a silane group, with the proviso that when R³ and R⁴ do not together form an alkylene group, at least one of R² and R⁴ is a silane group.

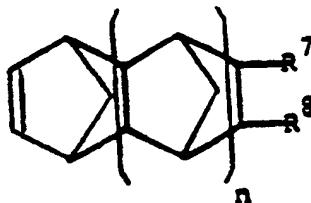
55 2. A printed circuit wiring board comprising a conductive film laminated to a prepreg layer comprising a glass cloth impregnated with a polycyclic copolymer comprising silane-substituted repeating units derived from monomers of the formulas



15 wherein n=1-4 and R⁷ and R⁸ are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, C₁-C₁₂ alkyl groups, C₂-C₁₂ alkylene groups, C₆-C₁₂ cycloalkyl groups, C₆-C₁₂ cycloalkylene groups and C₆-C₁₂ aryl groups, silane or R⁷ and R⁸ together from a saturated or unsaturated silane substituted cyclic group of from 4 to 12 carbon atoms with the two ring carbon atoms connected thereto, said ring carbon atoms forming part of and contributing to the 4 to 12 carbon atoms in the cyclic group with the proviso that, when R⁷ and R⁸ do not together form said cyclic group, at least one of R⁷ and R⁸ is a silane group.

20 3. A composition suitable for impregnating a glass cloth to form a prepreg, the composition comprising a polycyclic copolymer comprising silane-substituted and non silane-substituted repeating units derived from monomers of the formulas

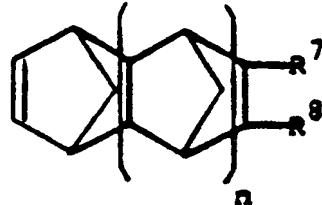
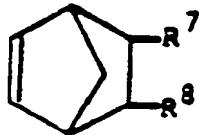
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45 wherein n=1-4 and R⁷ and R⁸ are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, C₁-C₁₂ alkyl groups, C₂-C₁₂ cycloalkylene groups and C₆-C₁₂ cycloalkyl groups, C₆-C₁₂ cycloalkylene groups and C₆-C₁₂ aryl groups, silane or R⁷ and R⁸ together form saturated or unsaturated silane substituted cyclic group of from 4 to 12 carbon atoms with the two ring carbon atoms connected thereto, said ring carbon atoms forming part of and contributing to the 4 to 12 carbon atoms in the cyclic group with the proviso that, when R⁷ and R⁸ do not together form said cyclic group, at least one of R⁷ and R⁸ is a silane group.

50 4. A process for producing a printed circuit wiring board comprising the steps of
 (a) providing a dipping solution comprising polynorbornene polymers dissolved within a solvent wherein the polynorbornene polymers comprise a polycyclic copolymer comprising silane-substituted repeating units derived from monomers of the formulas



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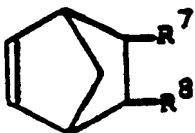
wherein n=1-4 and R⁷ and R⁸ are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, C₁-C₁₂ alkyl groups, C₂-C₁₂ alkylene groups, C₆-C₁₂ cycloalkyl groups, C₆-C₁₂ cycloalkylene groups and C₆-C₁₂ aryl groups, silane or R⁷ and R⁸ together from a saturated or unsaturated silane substituted cyclic group of from 4 to 12 carbon atoms with the two ring carbon atoms connected thereto, said ring carbon atoms forming part of and contributing to the 4 to 12 carbon atoms in the cyclic group with the proviso that, when R⁷ and R⁸ do not together form said cyclic group, at least one of R⁷ and R⁸ is a silane group;

(b) impregnating a glass cloth with the dipping solution and drying the impregnated cloth to remove a substantial portion of the solvent to form a prepreg to function as a substrate layer;

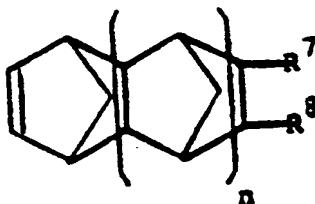
(c) laminating and curing the prepreg layer to the treated surface of a conductive film.

5. A laminate comprising at least one layer of a non-cellulic cloth impregnated with a copolymer having repeating units derived from silane-substituted and non-silane-substituted monomers of the formulas

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45 wherein n=1-4 and R⁷ and R⁸ are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, C₁-C₁₂ cycloalkyl groups, C₂-C₁₂ alkylene groups, C₆-C₁₂ cycloalkyl groups, C₆-C₁₂ cycloalkylene groups and C₆-C₁₂ aryl groups, silane or R⁷ and R⁸ together form a saturated or unsaturated silane substituted cyclic group of from 4 to 12 carbon atoms with the two ring carbon atoms connected thereto, said ring carbon atoms forming part of and contributing to the 4 to 12 carbon atoms in the cyclic group with the proviso that, when R⁷ and R⁸ do not together form said cyclic group, at least one of R⁷ and R⁸ is a silane group.

6. The silane group set forth in claim 1,2,3,4, or 5 wherein said silane group is a substituent of the formula -SiR₉R₁₀R₁₁ wherein each of R₉, R₁₀, R₁₁ is selected independently from the group which includes H; halogen; C₁-C₁₂ alkyl; C₆-C₁₂ aryl; and C₆-C₁₂ aryl substituted by C₁-C₁₂ alkyl; C₁-C₁₂ alkoxy; and hydroxyl.

55 7. The silane group of claim 6 wherein said silane group is a trialkoxysilane or an alkylalkoxysilane.

8. The copolymer set forth in claim 1,2,3,4, or 5 wherein the ratio of silane-substituted monomer to non silane-substituted monomer is from about 95:5 to about 1:99.

9. The circuit board set forth in claim 1 or 2 wherein the ratio of polycycloolefin copolymer to glass cloth is

from about 75:25 to about 30:70.

10. The composition of claim 3 wherein the ratio of silane-substituted monomer to non silane-substituted monomer is from about 75:25 to about 30:70.

11. The process of claim 4 wherein the ratio of polycycloolefin copolymer to glass cloth is from about 75:25 to about 30:70.

5 12. The laminate of claim 5 wherein the ratio of polycycloolefin copolymer to glass cloth is from about 75:25 to about 30:70.

13. The conductive film of claim 1,2, or 4 wherein said conductive film is copper and the surface of the copper film which is laminated to the prepreg layer has a bronze coating.

10 14. The polycycloolefin set forth in claim 1 wherein at least one monomer of said polycycloolefin is derived from a cycloolefin monomer selected from methylnorbornene, methyltetradecene, tetracyclododecene, vinyl-norbornene or dicyclopentadiene.

15. The polycycloolefin set forth in claim 3,4 or 5 wherein at least one monomer of said polycycloolefin is unsaturated and derived from a cycloolefin monomer selected from methylnorbornene, methyl-tetracyclododecene, tetracyclododecene, vinyl-norbornene or dicyclopentadiene.

16. The polycyclic copolymer set forth in claim 1,3,4, or 5 wherein said polycyclic copolymer is derived from silane-substituted and non silane-substituted monomers selected from dicyclopentadiene, 2-norbornene, and other norbornene monomers such as

20 5,6-dimethyl-2-norbornene,
 5-ethyl-2-norbornene,
 5-ethylideny-2-norbornene (or 5-ethylidene-norbornene),
 5-butyl-2-norbornene,
 5-hexyl-2-norbornene,

25 5-octyl-2-norbornene,
 5-phenyl-2-norbornene,
 5-dodecyl-2-norbornene,
 5-isobutyl-2-norbornene,
 5-octadecyl-2-norbornene,

30 5-isopropyl-2-norbornene,
 5-phenyl-2-norbornene,
 5-p-tolyl-2-norbornene,
 5- α -naphthyl-2-norbornene,
 5-cyclohexyl-2-norbornene,

35 5-isopropenyl-norbornene,
 5-vinyl-norbornene,
 5,5-dimethyl-2-norbornene,
 tricyclopentadiene (or cyclopentadiene trimer),
 tetracyclopentadiene (or cyclopentadiene tetramer),

40 dihydroadicyclopentadiene (or cyclopentene-cyclopentadiene co-dimer),
 methyl-cyclopentadiene dimer,
 ethyl-cyclopentadiene dimer,
 tetracyclododecene,
 9-methyl-tetracyclo[6,2,1,1^{3,6}0^{2,7}]dodecene-4, (or methyl-tetracyclododecene),

45 9-ethyl-tetracyclo[6,2,1,1^{3,6}0^{2,7}]dodecene-4, (or ethyl-tetracyclododecene),
 9-propyl-tetracyclo[6,2,1,1^{3,6}0^{2,7}]dodecene-4,
 9-hexyl-tetracyclo[6,2,1,1^{3,6}0^{2,7}]dodecene-4,
 9-decyl-tetracyclo[6,2,1,1^{3,6}0^{2,7}]dodecene-4,
 9,10-dimethyl-tetracyclo[6,2,1,1^{3,6}0^{2,7}]dodecene-4,

50 9-methyl,10-ethyl-tetracyclo[6,2,1,1^{3,6}0^{2,7}]dodecene-4,
 9-cyclohexyl-tetracyclo[6,2,1,1^{3,6}0^{2,7}]dodecene-4,
 9-chloro-tetracyclo[6,2,1,1^{3,6}0^{2,7}]dodecene-4,
 9-bromo-tetracyclo[6,2,1,1^{3,6}0^{2,7}]dodecene-4,
 9-fluoro-tetracyclo[6,2,1,1^{3,6}0^{2,7}]dodecene-4,

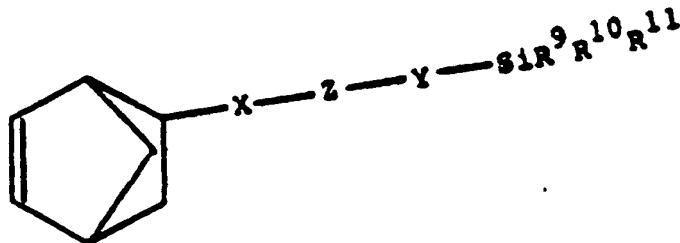
55 9-isobutyl-tetracyclo[6,2,1,1^{3,6}0^{2,7}]dodecene-4, or
 9,10-dichloro-tetracyclo[6,2,1,1^{3,6}0^{2,7}]dodecene-4.

17. The printed circuit board of claim 1 wherein the polycycloolefin copolymer further comprises an amount of from about 1 wt.% to about 10 wt.%, based on the total weight of monomeric units present in the

polymeric composition, of units derived from monomers of the formula

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wherein X is selected from -C-, -C₆H₄-CH₂- or alkylene of from 1-4 carbon atoms;
 15 Z is selected from -O-, -NH-, -O-CH₂-CH₂-O-, or -NH-CH₂-CH₂-NH-;
 Y is selected from alkylene of from 1-4 carbon atoms; and
 R⁹, R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are each independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxyl, C₁-C₁₂ alkyl; C₆-C₁₂ aryl; C₆-C₁₂ aryl substituted by alkyl; halogen; or C₁-C₁₂ alkoxy.

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(54) Copolymer for use in preparing preprints, printed circuit wiring boards prepared from such preprints and processes for preparing such printed circuit wiring boards.

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(57) Copolymers for use in preparing preprints, which in turn are used to prepare printed circuit wiring boards are provided, as well as processes for producing the preprints and wiring boards. The copolymers comprise repeating units derived from cycloolefin monomers, e.g., norbornene-type monomers, e.g., dicyclopentadiene-type monomers. Some of the monomers are silane-substituted while others are non silane-substituted. The silane-substituted monomers provide copolymers which exhibit improved properties when employed as the copolymers in preprints for printed circuit wiring boards. For example, improved adhesion is achieved

between the noncellulosic substrate and the polymers of components used in the wiring boards. These properties include, but are not limited to improved dielectric properties, improved adhesion to glass cloth substrates, etc.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 90 12 2148

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. CL.5)
A	EP-A-0 303 969 (THE BF. GOODRICH CO.) * Page 3, line 14 - page 4, line 38; claim 1 *	1-2,14- 16	H 05 K 1/03 B 32 B 15/08 C 08 G 61/08
A	GB-A-1 402 128 (CHEMISCHE WERKE HÜLS AG) * Page 1, lines 69-81; page 2, lines 62-89; page 3, lines 50-64; claim 1 *	1-2,6-7	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN, vol. 14, no. 20 (C-676), 17th January 1989; & JP-A-1 263 124 (NIPPON ZEON CO., LTD) 19-10-1989 * Abstract *		
A,D	CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS, vol. 98, no. 20, 16th May 1983, page 59, abstract no. 162026p, Columbus, Ohio, US; & JP-A-57 188 347 (HITACHI CHEMICAL CO.) 19-11-1982 * Abstract *	1	

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	31-08-1992	SCHUERMANS N.F.G.	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES	
<p>The present European Patent Application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.</p> <p>All claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.</p> <p>Only part of the claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.</p> <p>No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.</p> <p>Invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions.</p> <p>The Search Division considers that the present European Patent Application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention.</p> <p>SEE SHEET B.</p>	
LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION	
<p>namely:</p> <p>Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.</p> <p>All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.</p> <p>Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European Patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.</p> <p>None of the further search fees has been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European Patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.</p> <p>namely claims:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European Patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European Patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.</p>	

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EP 90 12 2148 -B-

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims 1,2,4,6-17:

Printed circuit board comprising a metal laminated to a polynorbornene modified with silane groups prepreg

2. Claim 3:

Composition for impregnating a glass cloth

3. Claim 5:

Laminate comprising a prepreg of silane modified polynorbornene

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